



SUBMISSION TO THE COP30 PRESIDENCY OPEN CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

ROADMAP FOR TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS IN A JUST, ORDERLY AND EQUITABLE MANNER

Submitting Organization: **Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica (RBRB) — Brazilian Basic Income Network**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The **Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica (RBRB)** — a nonprofit private association dedicated to promoting income distribution in Brazil and encouraging government bodies to implement a Citizens' Basic Income — hereby submits this contribution in response to the COP30 Presidency's invitation to provide inputs to the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner.

This submission builds upon the analysis and proposals contained in *Ofício nº 02-2026*, originally addressed to the Ministers of Environment and Climate Change, Mines and Energy, Finance, and the Chief of Staff of the Presidency of Brazil. That document was submitted in direct reference to the Presidential Decree of December 8, 2025, which instructed the relevant ministries to develop a proposal for a just and planned energy transition roadmap, including the creation of an Energy Transition Fund financed by revenues from oil and gas exploration¹.

The RBRB's central argument is that income distribution is not a supplementary social measure but a structural necessity for any credible energy transition strategy. The following sections present our response to the questions posed by the COP30 Presidency in the open call.

2. Critical Barriers to Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

The energy transition faces barriers that are simultaneously structural and distributional. The RBRB identifies the following as among the most critical:

- **Socioeconomic vulnerability and unequal exposure to climate impacts.** The climate crisis is not merely an environmental problem but also a deep socioeconomic crisis. Lower-income communities and those living in irregular settlement zones, with less access to healthcare, education, and basic sanitation, are more exposed to the catastrophic effects of climate change and have fewer resources for adaptation².

¹ Available at: <https://in.gov.br/web/dou/-/despacho-do-presidente-da-republica-673667496>

² Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1136/gutjnl-2023-331195>

- **Exclusion of informal and marginalized workers from transition strategies.** Current ecological transition strategies tend to focus on formal sector workers, overlooking those in the informal economy, women, marginalized groups, and indigenous peoples. While polluting industries rely heavily on manual labor, “green jobs” frequently require higher levels of specialization, creating a skills and access gap.
- **Financial barriers to low-carbon technology adoption.** Adapting to the immediate effects of climate change (such as migration from more affected areas or the acquisition of water storage) and adopting low-carbon technologies (such as solar panels and electric vehicles) require an initial investment that most low- and middle-income families cannot afford.
- **Fiscal and political resistance.** Energy reforms and carbon taxation have historically faced popular resistance due to their inflationary impact on energy costs, as exemplified by the Yellow Vest protests in France³. Without robust redistribution mechanisms, transition policies risk losing the social legitimacy necessary for sustained implementation.
- **High fossil fuel dependency.** In Brazil, the oil and gas industry accounts for 11% of national GDP⁴. The failure to protect society during the departure from this energy matrix could increase the country’s overall vulnerability and generate a regressive political backlash.

3. Potential Levers for Accelerating the Transition: The Cap and Share Model

The RBRB proposes that the elaboration of any roadmap for a just and planned energy transition must consider **new public income distribution policies through direct monetary transfers to the population**. In this context, we present the *Cap and Share* model as one of the most economically and socially viable alternatives.

Cap and Share is a climate policy proposal that addresses the environmental crisis through a mechanism grounded in economic justice and redistribution, structured around four fundamental pillars:

Pillar 1 — Cap (Limit): A strict and legally binding limit is established for global fossil fuel extraction. Extraction licenses equivalent to this maximum ceiling are issued, digitally tracked, and restricted from financial speculation.

³ Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/portuguese/internacional-46249017>

⁴ Available at: https://portalantigo.ipea.gov.br/agencia/images/stories/PDFs/nota_tecnica/220622_nt_diset_n98_o_setor_de_petroleo.pdf



Pillar 2 — Charge: Polluting companies pay significant fees to obtain these licenses. The civil society organization *Equal Right* proposes a value of US\$144 per tonne of CO₂, aligned with IPCC recommendations⁵.

Pillar 3 — Fund: All revenues are channeled into a public investment vehicle inspired by models such as the Alaska Permanent Fund. Under democratic governance, this fund would finance renewable energy projects, sustainable infrastructure, and climate adaptation.

Pillar 4 — Share: Each individual receives a universal climate dividend, a form of Citizens' Basic Income. Applied to the Brazilian context, the *Cap and Share* model could generate approximately R\$338 billion in the first year.⁶ These resources would make it possible to finance a universal dividend, directly strengthening family resilience against the increasingly frequent and intense climate disasters in the country.

4. Justification: Why Basic Income Is Central to a Just Transition

The integration of income distribution (via Basic Income) with the financing of the ecological transition is not a mere social complement but a structural necessity, for the following reasons:

- **Political viability and social acceptance:** Returning collected resources directly to citizens generates broad political support, essential for the implementation of urgent climate measures. Transition policies that do not include redistribution mechanisms have historically faced strong resistance, as illustrated by the French Yellow Vest protests.
- **Enabling access to low-carbon technologies:** A basic income provides the necessary capital for families to acquire solar panels, electric vehicles, or clean cooking technologies, enabling the transition to low-carbon lifestyles that currently require initial investments out of reach for lower-income populations.
- **Strengthening resilience and autonomous adaptation:** Unlike reactive humanitarian aid, unconditional income allows communities to prepare before disasters occur, conferring autonomy to decide on priority investments according to their specific local needs.
- **Social safety net during the transition:** The shift to a zero-carbon economy entails risks of unemployment in polluting sectors. Basic Income acts as a safety net for displaced workers, informal workers, and marginalized groups, ensuring financial security during requalification processes or transitions to new labor markets.

⁵ Available at: <https://transformaeconomia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/NT14-EN.pdf>

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- **Forest and biodiversity conservation (Cash for Conservation):** Basic income reduces the economic pressure that forces indigenous and traditional communities to adopt predatory extractivist practices such as deforestation, allowing them to act as guardians of carbon sinks with dignity and autonomy.

5. Reflecting Diverse National Realities in a Just Transition

The RBRB recognizes that no single transition pathway applies to all countries and regions. However, we emphasize that the principle of direct income redistribution is precisely the mechanism best suited to adapt to diverse national realities. Universal basic income mechanisms can be calibrated to national fiscal contexts, whether financed through carbon pricing, fossil fuel revenues, or international climate finance.

In countries with large informal economies and high income inequality - such as Brazil - direct cash transfers are particularly effective, as they reach populations excluded from labor-market-based transition support.

For nations highly dependent on fossil fuel revenues, a Cap and Share-inspired model offers a pathway to gradually decouple national budgets from fossil fuel income while building resilient social foundations.

Indigenous peoples and local communities, whose livelihoods are most directly threatened by both climate change and transition policies, must be guaranteed income security as a precondition for their meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

6. Closing Remarks

The RBRB reiterates its full willingness to collaborate with the COP30 Presidency and all relevant parties, making itself available to provide information, studies, technical inputs, and other elements that may contribute to the formulation of guidelines for a just, orderly, and equitable energy transition roadmap.

Respectfully,



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